

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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DATE: August 5, 2022

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

SUBJECT: Centralized Fire Dispatch Service Agreement 2023-2027 (Five-year renewal with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to operate the Fire Operations Communications Center)

ATTACHMENT(S): One (1): Backgrounder – Centralized Fire Dispatch Service Agreement 2023-2027, Summary of Fundamental Terms

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Council:

1. RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated August 5 2022 from the Director of Public Safety titled, “Centralized Fire Dispatch Service Agreement 2023-2027 (Five-year renewal with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to operate the Fire Operations Communications Center);” AND
2. AUTHORIZES the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute an Agreement on behalf of the City to renew the five-year “Centralized Fire Dispatch Service Agreement 2023-2027”, substantively as described in the Backgrounder - Summary of Fundamental Terms attached to the report dated August 5, 2022 from the Director of Public Safety titled “Centralized Fire Dispatch Service Agreement 2023-2027 (Five-year renewal with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to operate the Fire Operations Communications Center).

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to renew the Centralized Fire Dispatch Service Agreement between the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) and the City of Prince George for another five-year term, 2023-2027. The existing Centralized Fire Dispatch Service Agreement between the CPG and the RDFFG expires on December 31, 2022. A Communications Administration Committee (CAC) comprised of senior management from both the RDFFG and City have agreed to an extension with revisions to the current Agreement (see attached ‘Backgrounder’ for additional information).

This is a mutually beneficial, long-standing Agreement that is cost-efficient while providing a high level of quality services to the community, our neighbors and an overall service area that comprises approximately one third of the geographical land mass of British Columbia.

A companion report is slated for the RDFFG Board of Directors approval at the August 18, 2022 RDFFG Board Meeting.

DISCUSSION:

The Centralized Fire Dispatch Service Agreement is a long-standing partnership between our two local governments providing fire dispatch services to the city, Regional District, and approximately 79 other fire service areas throughout the province. Centralized Fire Dispatch Services provide for fire/rescue dispatch and communications services for fire/rescue agencies in the RDFFG, Cariboo (CRD), Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS) Central Kootenay (RDCK) and Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) regional districts.

Prince George Fire/Rescue Service (PGFRS) provides the City’s contribution to the Agreement, through the provision of a full-spectrum fire dispatch and communications service that is considered among the best in the province. In September, the Fire Operations Communications Center (FOCC) will move from the existing location at the old downtown Fire Hall, into a new state-of-the-art facility at Fire Hall 1. Well-equipped and professionally staffed, PGFRS’ FOCC is positioned to provide fire dispatch and communications services to the community and beyond well into the future.

As of January 1, 2023, the FOCC is slated to provide services to an additional 20 fire service areas in the Kootenay region of the province. Increased capacity has been planned for, and the additional staffing requirements are included in the expanded financial agreement.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The five-year Agreement is as follows, for an aggregate total of \$10,860,000 to be paid by the RDFFG to the City between 2023-2027.

The Regional District shall pay to the City the following amounts as the annual fee for the provision of Fire Dispatch Service during the term of this Agreement:

2023	- \$ 1,930,000
2024	- \$ 2,075,000
2025	- \$ 2,200,000
2026	- \$ 2,290,000
2027	- \$ 2,365,000

These amounts reflect the service capacity changes (staff increase) as a result of expanding the fire service area coverage to an additional 20 fire service areas in the Kootenay region commencing January 1 2023.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Administration seeks Council Approval to renew the Centralized Fire Dispatch Service Agreement 2023-2027, between the City and RDFFG. A combined Communications Administration Committee (CAC) comprised of senior management between the two local governments have made slight revisions to the long-standing Agreement to reflect recent and expected changes between now and 2027. An attached ‘backgrounder’ provides additional details.

The provision of centralized fire dispatch service is critical to saving lives and reducing suffering. The service provision enhances the life safety of residents and communities within the City of Prince George, Regional District of Fraser-Fort, our partnering regional districts and to our local government public safety partners.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager
Meeting date: August 15, 2022